

## Section 6. AVIATION AREA FORECAST (FA)

### 9-6-1. GENERAL

a. Aviation Area Forecasts (FA) are available through the WMSC and provide an overview of weather conditions which could impact aviation operations. FA's are issued by the National Aviation Weather Advisory Unit (NAWAU) in Kansas City, Missouri, for the conterminous U.S. land and coastal waters by areas (Pacific Coast, Rocky Mountain, North-Central U.S., South-Central U.S., Northeast U.S., Southeast U.S.). The areas are delineated along state boundaries and are specified in the NWS Operations Manual, Chapter D-20. The FA's for Alaska and Hawaii are issued by the WSFO's located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii. The geographical areas of coverage for the appropriate WSFO's are specified in Chapter D-20 of the NWS Operations Manual. (Canadian and Mexican FA's are also available through the WMSC.)

b. FA's consist of two sections with each section being transmitted with a unique communications header. This allows each section to be replaced when needed instead of amending or correcting the affected FA, to provide a current and complete area forecast. Inflight advisories (including WST's) amend the FA; however, when necessary, the appropriate section of the FA will be replaced by the issuing NWS office. The two FA sections and their communications headers are as follows (iii denotes the FA location identifier; e.g., ANC, CHI, etc.):

1. iiiS-Synopsis.
2. iiiI-Icing and Freezing Level.
3. iiiT-Turbulence.
4. iiiC-Significant Clouds and Weather.

### 9-6-2. AVIATION AREA FORECAST (FA) SCHEDULE

a. FA's are prepared three times a day in the contiguous 48 States and Alaska, and four times a day in Hawaii. All scheduled transmission times are in UTC and listed by daylight/standard times. The times in the contiguous U.S. are in TBL 9-6-1.

Area Forecast Schedule

Time Zones	Areas	Issuance Times
Central	CHI/DFW	0130/0230
		0930/1030
		1830/1930
Eastern	BOS/MIA	0030/0130
		0830/0930
		1730/1830
Mountain	SLC	0230/0330
		1030/1130
		1930/2030
Pacific	SFO	0230/0330
		1030/1130
		1930/2030

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b. The Alaska and Pacific NWS Regional Headquarters have authority to schedule FA's to meet user requirements. These are issued at the following times. (See TBL 9-6-2.)

Alaska/Pacific Area Forecast Schedule

Issuance	ANC and FAI	JNU	HNL
1st	0640Z	0640Z	0340Z
2nd	1440Z	1340Z	0940Z
3rd	2240Z	2240Z	1540Z
4th			2140Z

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c. The Gulf FA is prepared twice daily. The issuance times in UTC or Z depend on whether LDT/LST is in effect and are as follows:

1. 1st issuance 1040/1140.
2. 2nd issuance 1740/1840.

### 9-6-3. DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of FA's is made by WMSC in accordance with a predetermined list for each circuit based upon intracircuit coordinated requirements.